



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held May 11, 2004, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“Recently, an inmate at Men’s Central Jail was found dead in his cell. The inmate, Raul Tinajero, had been transferred from State Prison to Sheriff’s temporary custody to serve as a witness in a criminal matter after which he was going to be transported back to State Prison. It is a major concern that the circumstances surrounding the death of inmate Tinajero may have been as a direct result of his cooperation in the prosecution.

“Among the many concerns, this incident presents the potential for chilling future testimony by witnesses in criminal matters for fear of a similar result. This event, unfortunately, undermines the Sheriff’s continued efforts in maintaining the safety and security of everyone in custody.

“It is incumbent upon the County to utilize all tools available to conduct a careful and thorough investigation to ensure that a similar incident does not occur in the future and restore confidence in the Sheriff’s ability to maintain security in the jails.”

Candace Owen addressed the Board.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Requested the Sheriff to investigate and provide a full report of the circumstances surrounding the murder of inmate Raul Tinajero on April 20, 2004 in Closed Session on May 11, 2004; and

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2. Requested the District Attorney to seek the assistance of the Grand Jury for a thorough investigation of this incident.

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Copies distributed:

- Each Supervisor
- Chief Administrative Officer
- County Counsel
- Sheriff

Letter sent to:

- District Attorney